GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5488
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
FACILITIES TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee of eminent freedom fighters to look into the issues related to freedom fighters as reported in The Hindu dated April 01, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed;

(c) the details of the facilities available to freedom fighters and their eligible dependents separately;

(d) whether the said committee has also reviewed the facilities available to freedom fighters;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) to (f) : In addition to Samman pension, which was enhanced from Rs.6,000/- per month to Rs.10,000/- per month with effect from 2nd October 2006, the following facilities are also available to freedom fighters:

free railway pass (1st Class/AC Sleeper) for freedom fighter and widow, along with a companion, for life;

free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and in hospitals run by PSUs under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;

telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;

general Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters in Delhi;

widow/widower of the freedom fighter is also permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter; and

accommodation in the Freedom Fighters` Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them.

In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:

free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and

free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/widowers.

On the occasion of the centenary of the Satyagraha Movement, a Committee of eminent freedom fighters has been constituted to look into the issues related to freedom fighters, so that suggestions for redressal of problems and complaints of freedom fighters and suggestions for improvements in facilities for freedom fighters and their dependents are readily forthcoming and issues are resolved in a time-bound manner.

The Committee was constituted on 26.02.2007. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 25.04.2007. The tenure of the Committee is for two years.